

MARK BRNOVICH ATTORNEY GENERAL OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL STATE OF ARIZONA

May 4, 2022

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas Secretary of Homeland Security Washington, D.C. 20528 Alejandro.mayorkas@hq.dhs.gov

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

Last week, I was appalled to learn of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) launch of the Disinformation Governance Board. Deploying this sort of apparatus from a government agency is reminiscent of communist or totalitarian regimes and speaks volumes about the Biden administration's lack of respect for the First Amendment and free speech throughout our nation.

Furthermore, the individual selected to lead this board, Nina Jankowicz, has already proven that she will be anything BUT a fair and unbiased arbiter of government-approved truth. Ms. Jankowicz has a lengthy history of using her platforms to attack conservatives' viewpoints on a number of controversial issues. She will, no doubt, continue her efforts to assail those she disagrees with from her elevated perch at DHS.

Mr. Secretary, the creation of this board and the appointment of Ms. Jankowicz may be one of the greatest threats to our Constitution that we have experienced in generations. Your actions come at a time when President Biden is under increasing scrutiny and appropriate criticism for his failed policies, and when state officials (like myself) are winning in the courts of legal and public opinion. This new board is simply a blatant attempt by the Biden administration to recreate and distort the narrative to silence political opposition. But make no mistake -- your idea cannot pass the smell test – let alone Constitutional muster.

History has shown the legacies of similar efforts to curb free speech and peaceful protests. From the old Soviet Union to the communist government of China –among other examples around the world– once a government takes control of free speech and other God-given liberties of its citizens, it loses its moral authority to lead.

The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States makes it clear that our federal government has no business interfering in anyone's speech – no matter what it entails. Our Founders understood that government never has the best interest of the citizenry in mind when it attempts to regulate and restrict freedom of expression. Americans will not stand for this egregious overreach of the federal government's Constitutional bounds.

With record fentanyl and other drug deaths rising and terrorists being apprehended attempting to enter our country, I urge you to abandon the Disinformation Governance Board and refocus your resources on securing our southern border and keeping Americans safe.

Sincerely,

Mark Brnovich